

bill was passed. Now, it is the responsibility of the House to ensure that an extended compensation bill gets passed and that 800,000 Americans can rest a little easier this holiday seasons.

Sincerely,

SHEILA JACKSON-LEE,
Member of Congress.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: More than 800,000 jobless Americans will lose their unemployment compensation three days before the New Year if Congress leaves town without passing extension legislation. Senate Republican Whip Don Nickles worked diligently last week to broker a compromise bill, H.R. 3529, which the House has the option of passing by unanimous consent tomorrow before it adjourns sine die. We can think of no reason why the House of Representatives, which is in session tomorrow, would be unable to pass the bipartisan compromise extension that was passed in the Senate last week. But we can think of 800,000 reasons for the House to act tomorrow.

The San Francisco Chronicle quoted White House officials as saying that "the President believes it's important to protect unemployed workers" and has been lobbying for a compromise to be reached. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3529 is that compromise. Not only would it ensure that workers receive their full thirteen weeks of extended compensation, but it would provide much needed relief to those who are about to exhaust their regular unemployment compensation and still have not found a new job.

When Members of the House left Washington last week, your spokesman responded to questions about whether the House will take up the Senate bill with: "We're done, we're closed up. Why don't they do [the House bill]? When the House finished its business last week, House Leadership admonished Senators that it was their responsibility to ensure that a Homeland Security bill was passed. Now, it is the responsibility of the House to ensure that an extended compensation bill gets passed and that 800,000 Americans can rest a little easier this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland; Charles B. Rangel; Tim Holden; Lucille Roybal-Allard; Marcy Kaptur; Gary L. Ackerman; Edward J. Markey; Dennis J. Kucinich; Rick Larsen; Neil Abercrombie; Danny K. Davis; Sherrod Brown; Maurice D. Hinchey; James L. Oberstar; Edolphus Towns; Rick Boucher; Bill Pascrell, Jr.; Stephanie Tubbs Jones; Vic Snyder; Darlene Hooley; Louise McIntosh Slaughter; Barney Frank; Lane Evans; Mark Udall; Anna G. Eshoo; Shelley Berkley; Jan Schakowsky; Patrick J. Kennedy.

Joseph Crowley; James P. Moran; Bernard Sanders; Betty McCollum; John F. Tierney; Jay Inslee; Ken Bentsen; Tom Udall; Barbara Lee; Steve Israel; Carolyn B. Maloney; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Robert E. Andrews; Eva M. Clayton; Howard L. Berman; Sander M. Levin; Rosa L. DeLauro; Donald M. Payne; Peter A. DeFazio; Bobby L. Rush; Norm Dicks; José E. Serrano; Martin O. Sabo; Jerrold Nadler; Nick J. Rahall II; George Miller; Carrie P. Meek; Dale E. Kildee.

Joe Baca; Silvestre Reyes; Elijah E. Cummings; Karen McCarthy; John Spratt; Zoe Lofgren; Martin T. Meehan; Baron P. Hill; Ellen O. Tauscher; Bob Etheridge; Steven R. Rothman; Lynn N. Rivers; Bob Filner; Jerry

Klecza; Bart Gordon; Diana DeGette; Earl Blumenauer; Eliot L. Engel; Jerry E. Costello; Ike Skelton; Earl Pomeroy; William D. Delahunt; Steny H. Hoyer; Virgil Goode, Jr.; Tammy Baldwin; David Wu; Jane Harman.

Rubén Hinojosa; Xavier Becerra; Julia Carson; Brian Baird; Carolyn McCarthy; Mike McIntyre; Marion Berry; Dennis Moore; David E. Price; Alcee D. Hastings; John P. Murtha; David E. Bonior; James P. McGovern; Michael M. Honda; Lynn Woolsey; Gene Green; Corrine Brown; Chales A. Gonzalez; Frank Pallone, Jr.; Robert A. Brady; Michael F. Doyle; Adam Smith; Tom Barrett; Lloyd Doggett; Jim Davis; Stephen F. Lynch; Fortney Pete Stark; James R. Langevin; Sheila Jackson-Lee.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, since the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) as a Member of this body was one of the first innovators of legislation with respect to homeland security, how very pleased I am to see the gentleman here today as Speaker pro tempore to drop the gavel on this matter. I am pleased for the gentleman, and I am proud to call the gentleman my friend.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this side of the aisle, I want to say again, as this will be I suppose the last time in the gentleman's role as majority leader that the gentleman addresses the House, we want to congratulate the gentleman on his service. We obviously have had disagreements through the years, but the gentleman has handled himself as a gentleman, and for this side of the aisle, we want to wish the gentleman Godspeed as he enters into a new phase of his career. I know the gentleman's family is pleased to welcome him back to full-time association. I know that was one of the gentleman's prime motives, as he expressed so eloquently on the floor.

On behalf of the minority, we want to wish the gentleman every success and good health and happiness in the future.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to this body that we have some new additions to our congressional family, a new addition to the Abel family. Williams James Abel arrived the night before last, yesterday, in the early hours of the morning, a beautiful baby boy, 9 pounds, 4 ounces.

□ 1245

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) would detain for one moment. I want to share a moment with him before he leaves the floor.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the wonderful, beautiful William James Abell,

we have another addition to our congressional family, to the Halpern family, Ari Joseph Halpern, born on November 28. I can tell the Members, Mr. Speaker, that his father is very proud.

Mr. Speaker, I notice a colleague of ours for so many years, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), who has so ably served as whip on the other side of the aisle. If I could take a moment to say to the gentleman from Michigan from our side of the aisle, and I believe I dare speak in this case for the entire body, we thank him for his years of service. He has always been a gentleman. He has done his job well as a Member of Congress. I would say on behalf, I believe, of all of us in this body, I wish him Godspeed in his remaining activities.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I want to join the distinguished majority leader. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has been one of the most distinguished Members of this body. He has reflected, I think, what the American public expects of each of us: the courage to state our convictions. He stood for those convictions and fought for those convictions, irrespective of their popularity or whether he found himself to be in the majority on any given proposition.

I think every Member of this body admires the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for the courage of his convictions. We talk a lot about that, but I think few Members have displayed the courage of their convictions any more dramatically or faithfully than has our colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

He is still a very young man, and he has much to offer his country. He fought for his country in Vietnam, and he came here and fought for its ideals. He will continue to serve, I know, as a productive and extraordinary American citizen. We wish him the very best in whatever he may do.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, one final point which I am confident will be of particular interest to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, with us today is my brother, Charlie Arme, general manager of the Rams. Mr. Speaker, he and his associates are in town this weekend to take care of business. I am sure the gentleman from Maryland would like to make him welcome.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we shall see. We shall see.

PROVIDING FOR THE SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 107TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERN) laid before the House the privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 160) providing for the sine die adjournment of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, Second Session.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows: